



Our Sisters' School

145 Brownell Avenue, New Bedford, MA
508-994-1255

Job Title: School-based Counselor and Team Leader
Status: Full Time
Reports to: Head of School

Our Story:

Our Sisters' School is a small, close-knit school serving students in grades 5–8. We serve motivated girls from low-income families and historically underrepresented groups. We recruit staff and students from diverse faiths, races, and cultures. We're located in the historic and growing city of New Bedford.

The name of our school honors the maritime history of New Bedford. It celebrates courageous young women who ventured out on whaling vessels in the early 1800's, and were called "sister sailors". Our students, modern "sister sailors" at Our Sisters' School, are bravely adventuring on the high seas of their educational journeys.

In our safe, supportive, and challenging environment, strong academics are coupled with positive character development as OSS students explore our Core Values of *Excellence, Community, Civic Engagement* and *Leadership*. Our educational philosophy values experiential, purposeful and community-oriented learning that honors student choice and voice. Our goal is to build the best educational environment we can imagine as we support the growth of our students. Flexibility, creativity, teamwork and hard work are some of the things our staff appreciate and value in the work environment.

Position Summary:

A qualified individual will be prepared to support students' social-emotional needs through facilitated individual and group counseling, helping students build healthy relationships with peers, executive functioning and personal coping skills. Additionally, co-teaching Health classes, helping support the "health umbrella" at the School, maintaining clear communication with families and staff, and attending student support meetings are essential functions of this job.

Responsibilities:

- Counseling / Therapy Services
 - Provide individual and small group sessions
 - Support Community Core-based problem-solving practices; facilitate circles or mediation as needed
 - Collaborate with Community Core team in support of our social and emotional literacy culture and curriculum
 - Participate in MTSS process/whole-child support teams, work with team to identify, provide and monitor support plans
 - Collaborate with the Head of School on crisis response and conduct individual safety assessments for students as needed

- o Communicate clearly with families
- o Manage schedule of supports and support families in referring students for additional mental health supports as needed, and consult with students' mental health providers as needed
- o Actively participate in all professional development workshops and staff meetings, leading as appropriate
- Health and Wellness Leadership
 - o Co-teach portions of Health classes for grades 5-8
 - o Support COVID Response Team, as needed
 - o Participate on Equity, Justice & Belonging (EJB) Committee
- Other duties as assigned

Qualifications/Skills:

- Bachelor's Degree preferred
- Counseling experience, preferably at middle-school level, particularly with economically and racially/ethnically diverse populations
- Strong speaking, written and verbal communication skills
- Excellent interpersonal skills, including professional collaboration and cultural competence
- Superior organizational and time management skills
- Proficiency with computers and software programs, especially Google-suite products

Physical Demands:

- Working at OSS requires physical fitness: stairs, a fast-paced schedule, playing and interacting with children, etc.
- Bending and lifting are required; all staff assists with cleaning, moving boxes, furniture, chairs, books, etc.

We offer:

- A work environment that is welcoming, collaborative, flexible and embraces creativity and diversity
- Salary commensurate with experience, education/certification and guidelines provided by OSS financial policies
- PTO (paid time off) in accordance with OSS personnel policies and Massachusetts regulations
- Employer offered health insurance, dental coverage, disability insurance and 401K Plan

We hire to intentionally include people from a variety of backgrounds. The people we are creates a rich tapestry of learning at Our Sisters' School and makes us stronger. Our community works hard to create and maintain a working and learning environment that's diverse, inclusive, equitable, and welcoming. As an equal opportunity employer, all qualified applicants will receive consideration for employment without regard to race, color, religion, gender identity or expression, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, age, or veteran status.

Visit our website at www.oursistersschool.org

To Apply: Please send cover letter, résumé, and references to: Sarah Herman, Head of School, sherman@oursistersschool.org

Updated May 2024